

For more information

Disposing sharps properly is not only the right thing to do, it is the law. Follow these simple guidelines and keep everyone in your community safe from needlestick injuries.

For more information and guidance on disposing animal health sharps, talk with your veterinarian or the waste management specialist in your local DNR office.

You can also get information on the laws regarding sharps disposal and answers to basic questions on waste management by contacting:

WI Department of Natural Resources

www.dnr.state.wi.us

(search for "sharps")

medwaste@dnr.state.wi.us

(608) 266-2111

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Wisconsin Department
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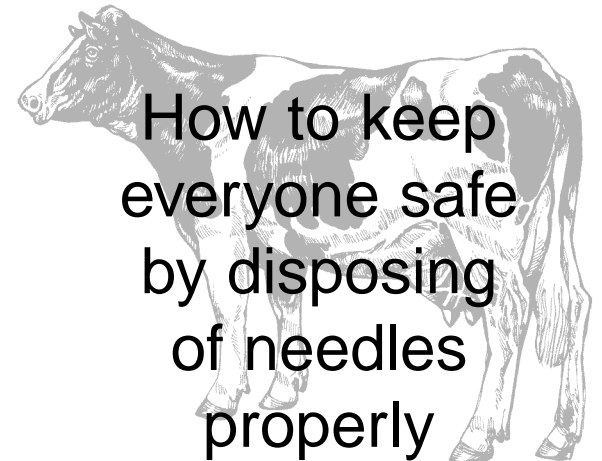
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Cooperative Extension

Wisconsin laws on animal medical waste



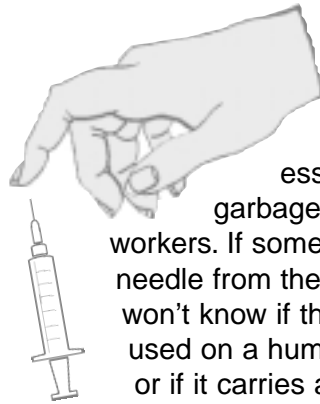
Stick to the rules

How to keep
everyone safe
by disposing
of needles
properly



Sharps (needles, syringes and lancets) are used on animals every day. For example, dairy cows receive vaccinations, and diabetic dogs and cats receive insulin injections. Although the sharps you use on your animals are not a danger for transmitting disease to humans, they are still harmful if not disposed of properly.

What's the danger?



When sharps are disposed of improperly, they pose an unnecessary concern to garbage haulers and workers. If someone is stuck by a needle from the garbage, they won't know if the needle was used on a human or an animal or if it carries any diseases.

ALL "needlestick" injuries result in expensive testing and can cause long-term emotional distress for the person who was stuck by the needle because of the possibility that he or she may get a disease like HIV or Hepatitis B. It's not something anyone should have to go through.

It's the law

In addition to being a safety issue, you also are breaking Wisconsin law if you dispose of sharps improperly. Sharps are considered infectious waste, and all infectious waste must be disposed separately from other waste.

Sharps cannot be disposed with:

- household waste
- farm waste
- recyclable materials (i.e. glass, metal or plastic containers.)

How to dispose of sharps

Safely packaging sharps used on animals for disposal involves three basic steps.

1. Place the sharps in rigid, puncture-resistant containers with secure lids or caps.

Acceptable containers include:

- Containers specifically for sharps
- Heavy plastic detergent or bleach bottles with screw caps



Unacceptable containers include:

- coffee cans (the lids are too easily punctured)
- plastic milk jugs
- plastic bags
- pop cans or soda bottles

For containers specifically for sharps, ask your pharmacist or check with your local farm supply stores for availability.

2. Visibly label the sharps container "Biohazard," "Infectious waste," or "Sharps."

If you use a detergent bottle, it is a good idea to label it "Do not recycle."

SHARPS INFECTIOUS WASTE BIOHAZARD

3. When the container is full or you decide to dispose of your sharps, seal and label it, store it out of the reach of children, and dispose of it properly.

Once you decide to dispose of your sharps, you have 90 days to do it. As long as you are using the container and it isn't full, you can keep it for an unlimited time. When you dispose of the container, do not put it out with the rest of your trash. Take it to a registered sharps collection station, or talk with your veterinarian about possible outlets for disposing of sharps. Some sharps disposal locations may charge fees for disposal.

Locations for disposing sharps

Before you attempt to drop off your sharps at any of the following locations, always call ahead to make sure they will take them and if they charge a fee.

- Registered sharps collection stations, such as pharmacies. To find out where these stations are, you can contact:
 - Wisconsin DNR (608) 266-2111
 - American Diabetes Association (888) 342-2383
 - UW-Extension (608) 263-4300
 - Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (608) 257-3665
- Veterinary hospitals and clinics
- Human hospitals and clinics
- Mail-in sharps disposal programs
- Licensed infectious waste haulers

Consult your yellow pages under "waste disposal" or "medical waste" for possible local locations for disposing sharps. If you transport more than 50 pounds of medical waste per month, you must get a license from the DNR. For more information, call (608) 266-2111.